

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3618

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CHARTERS

REF: (A) LONDON 9342, (B) STATE 167879

1. ONA REPORTS THAT ON BASIS OF LETTER FROM ONA PROMISING 100 PERCENT AIRLINE CHECK ON BONA FIDES OF AFFINITY GROUPS ON EVERY CHARTER FLIGHT, DTI HAS AGREED TO APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR RETURN LEGS OF AFFINITY CHARTERS OPERATED BY ONA INTO AND OUT OF UK. APPROVALS OF NEW AFFINITY CHARTER FLIGHTS STILL "UNDER REVIEW" PENDING RECEIPT FROM ONA OF EXPLANATION FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS IN PAST (PARA 3 REF A). ONA EXPECTS SUPPLY REASONED EXPLANATION THIS WEEK AND HOPES THIS WILL CLEAR MATTER UP. AT PRESENT, CARRIER HAS NO NEW APPLICATIONS PENDING AND THUS SUSPENSION OF NEW PERMITS NOT CURRENTLY AN OPERATIONAL PROBLEM; AND IN ANY EVENT, UK AUTHORITIES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY NEW APPLICATIONS FOR AFFINITY CHARTERS AFTER AUGUST 31 BECAUSE AFFINITY RULES WILL THEN EXPIRE (LONDON 5588).

2. ONA VERY CONCERNED BY CONDITION IN UK PERMITS WHICH ALLOWS ONLY DIRECT EMPLOYEES OF AIRLINE TO BE CARRIED AS NON-REVENUE PASSENGERS ABOARD AFFINITY FLIGHTS.

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CONDITION EXCLUDES NON-REVENUE CARRIAGE OF MEMBERS OF EMPLOYEE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY AS WELL AS COURTESY CAR-

RIAGE OF THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FLIGHT CREWS, ETC. OF OTHER AIRLINES. US SUPPLEMENTALS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LIMITATION ON CARRIAGE NON-REVENUE PASSENGERS ON ITCs. BRITISH ITC RULES PERMIT FREE CARRIAGE ONLY OF AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY. ACCORDING TO DTI OFFICIALS, THESE LIMITATIONS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ALMOST A YEAR BUT HAVE ONLY RECENTLY COME UNDER ATTACK BY US OPERATORS. SAME LIMITATION APPLIES TO BRITISH SUPPLEMENTALS.

3. DTI OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED TO US REPORTED STATUS ON A CASE AND LIMITATIONS RE NON-REVENUE PASSENGERS ON AFFINITY AND ITC CHARTERS. THEY HAVE ALSO REPORTED ALLEGED CHARTER VIOLATIONS AGAINST PAN AMERICAN ON TWO AFFINITY CHARTERS AND ONE ABC FLIGHT. AFFINITY VIOLATIONS RELATE TO (A) CARRIAGE OF TEN PASSENGERS NOT ON MANIFEST (UNDER RULES IN EFFECT UP UNTIL AUGUST 1) AND (B) CARRIAGE TEN PASSENGERS EITHER NOT MEMBERS OF GROUP OR MEMBERS FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. ABC VIOLATION RELATES TO CARRIAGE TWO PASSENGERS WITHOUT TICKETS AND ONE PASSENGER NOT ON ADVANCE LIST. DISPOSITION OF PANAM CASE NOT YET DECIDED.

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